

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were indicated as allowable prior to continued examination. New claims 10-45 have been added. As a result claims 1-45 are pending for examination with claims 1, 9, 10, 27 and 37 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

I. Amendments to the Figures and Specification

The above-indicated amendments to the written description and figures have been made for purposes of clarification. Specifically, the amendments have been made to ensure consistency between the written description and the figures.

II. New Claims

New claims 10-45 have been added. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification and figures.

Claim 10 is directed a phase-locked loop configured to provide an output signal. The phase-locked loop comprises a comparison circuit configured to compare a reference signal and the output signal. The phase locked loop comprises an inhibition circuit connected to the comparison circuit, wherein the inhibition circuit comprises a D flip-flop configured to output an inhibit signal to the comparison circuit. The phase-locked loop further comprises a frequency divider coupled to the inhibition circuit. Claim 10 is in condition for allowance since the art of record fails to teach all the claim limitations. For example, the art of record fails to teach the claimed inhibition circuit connected to the comparison circuit, wherein the inhibition circuit comprises a D flip-flop configured to output an inhibit signal to the comparison circuit.

Claims 11-26 depend from claim 10 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 27 is directed to a method of operating a phase-locked loop comprising a voltage controlled oscillator controlled by a control signal. The method comprises monitoring a value of the control signal, and inhibiting the phase-locked loop if the monitored value of the control signal is outside a predetermined range of values. Claim 27 is in condition for allowance since the art of record fails to teach the claimed method. For example, the art of record fails to teach monitoring a value of the control signal and inhibiting the phase-locked loop if the monitored value of the control signal is outside a predetermined range of values, as claimed.

Claims 28-36 depend from claim 27 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 37 is directed to a method of operating a phase-locked loop comprising a voltage controlled oscillator controlled by a control signal. The method comprises sampling a value of the control signal, and inhibiting the phase-locked loop prior to sampling the value of the control signal. Claim 37 is in condition for allowance since the art of record fails to teach all the claim limitations, for example, inhibiting the phase-locked loop prior to sampling the value of the control signal.

Claims 38-45 depend from claim 37 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

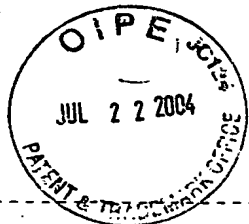
Respectfully submitted,

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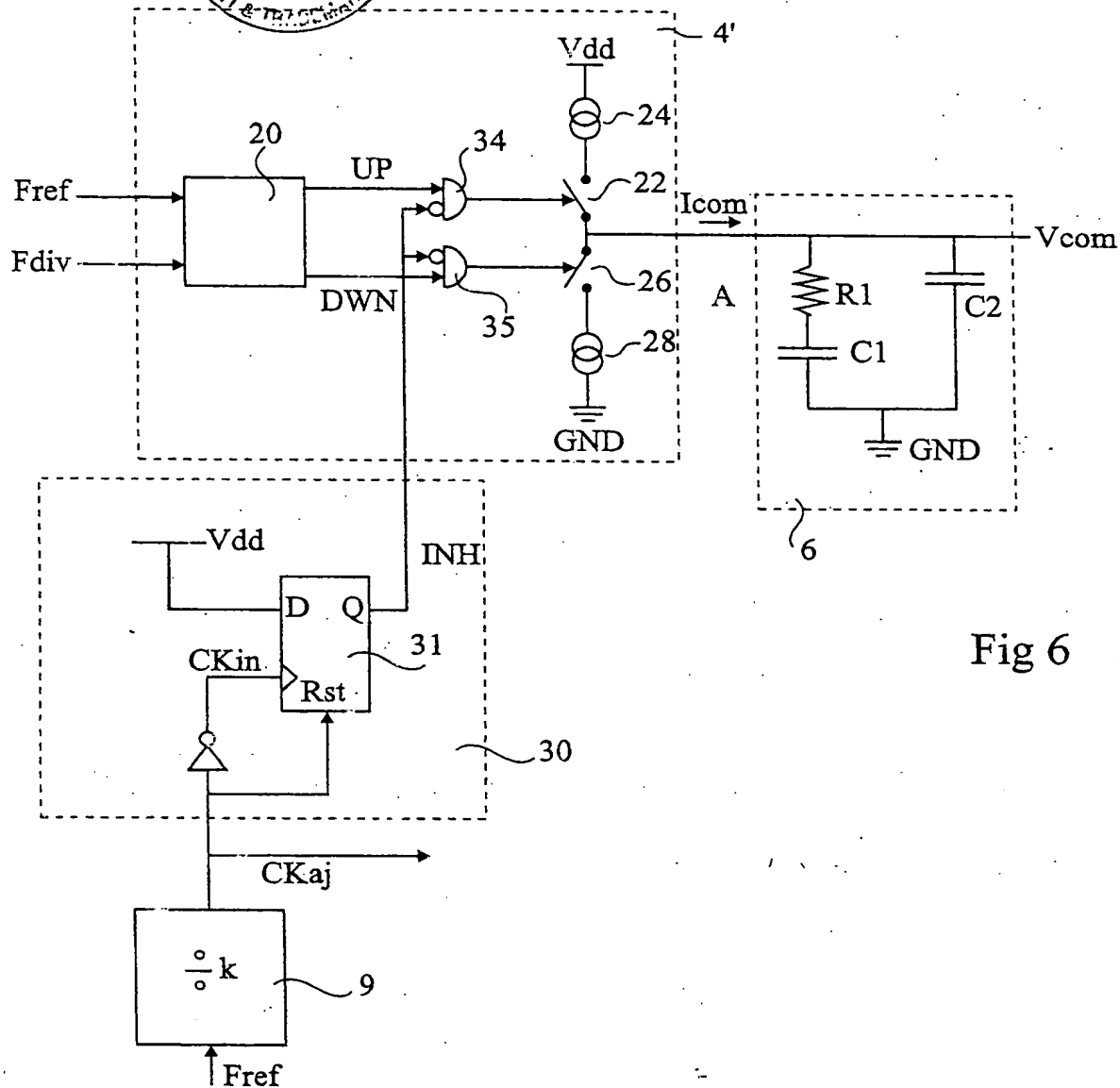


Fig 6

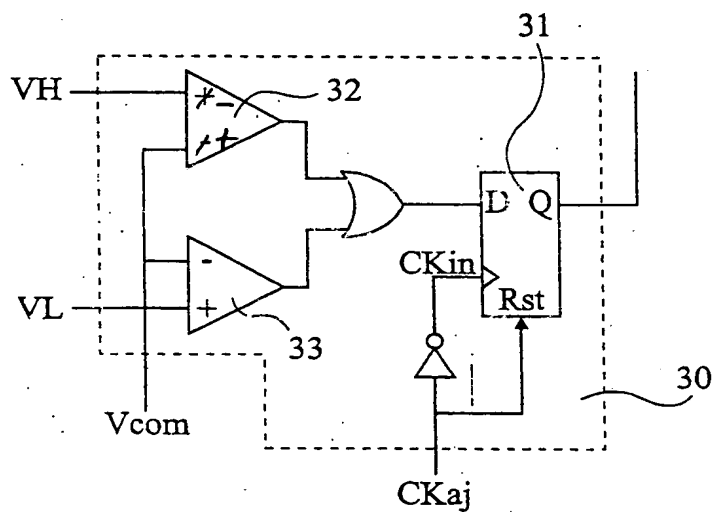


Fig 7